11th August 1965] [Sri S. M. A. Majid]

that no act or proceeding of a District Development Council shall be deemed to be invalid on the ground only that more than three months have elapsed between one meeting of the Council and another. It is also proposed to validate all acts and proceedings hitherto done or taken by the respective District Development Councils.

In conformity with the recommendation made b ythe Committee of the Legislature on Subordinate Legislation, section 14 of the Act is also proposed to be amended so as to provide for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of every rule made or notification issued under the Act and also for placing on the Table of both Houses of the Legislature of every such rule or notification.

I have briefly indicated the salient features of the Bill. The Objects of the Bill have been set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

" That the Madras District Development Councils (Amendment) Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 1965), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration ".

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2 to 4 were put and carried.

Clause 1, the Long Title and the Enacting Formula were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move :

" That the Madras District Development Councils (Amendment) Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 1965), as passed by the Assembly, be passed ".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

" That the Madras District Development Councils (Amendment) Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 1965), as passed by the Assembly, be passed ".

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.

(5) THE MADRAS MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL, 1965
(L.A. BILL NO. 22 OF 1965).

* THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move : 4-40 p.m.

' That this House concurs with the Assembly in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 18 Members (12 Members of the Legislative Assembly and 6 Members of

the Legislative Council) to consider the Madras Medical Practitioners Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 22 of 1965) and that the following members of this House be selected to serve on such a Joint Select Committee :—

(1) The Hon. Sri R. Venkataraman,

(2) Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar,

(3) Sri K. Anbazhagan,

(4) Sri M. Rajah Iyer,

(5) Dr. T. V. Sivanandam; and

(6) Sri K. Rajaram.

Hon. Members of the House are aware that at present there are in force in the State of Madras two enactments providing for the registration of Medical Practitioners. They are—

(1) The Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914 (Madras Act IV of 1914); and

(1) The Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914 (Madras Medicine Act, 1956 (Madras Act XXVII of 1956).

The former Act provides for the establishment of a Medical Council and for the registration of Medical Practitioners of Modern Medicine who possess recognised qualifications. The latter Act provides for the establishment of the Board of Integrated Medicine, Madras, and also for the registration of Practitioners of integrated medicine who hold recognised qualifications. A Central Board of Indigenous Medicine (a non-statutory Board) is also functioning in this State, which registers persons who hold certain qualifications in Indian or Indigenous medicine, and persons who are hereditary practitioners. Besides the registered practitioners of Modern Medicine and Integrated Medicine, there are a large number of practitioners of Homoeopathic Medicine in this State. The Government have decided to recognise the Homoeopathic system of medicine and to bring in legislation to regulate the practice of Homoeopathic Medicine in this State.

In 1959, the Government of India forwarded to all State Governments a draft model Bill to regulate the practice of medicine, so that, only persons duly qualified and trained in any system of medicine could practise as Physicians. The main object of that Bill is to prevent the practice of medicine by quacks. The Central Council of Health at its meeting held in January 1959, commended for adoption by all State Governments, the draft model Bill prepared by the Government of India.

This Government have considered all the above points and have decided that instead of embarking on a separate legislation in regard to Homoeopathic Medicine alone, a consolidated Bill on the lines of the Model Bill sent by the Government of India may be introduced for the establishment of three Councils, one for Modern

11th August 1965] [Srimathi Jothi Vencatachellum]

Medicine, another for Indian or Indigenous Medicine, and the third for Homoeopathic Medicine, and that the existing enactments relating to Modern Medicine and Integrated Medicine may be repealed.

There are a large number of persons who do not possess any recognised qualifications in Modern Medicine, Indian or Indigenous Medicine or Homoeopathic Medicine, but who are practising medicine for a long time without any control. A solution has to be found to see that such a practice is put an end to and at the same time those who without recognized qualifications are already practising medicine as the sole means of their livelihood are not deprived of their avocation. Government consider it desirable to permit such of those practitioners as have been in the profession for a period of ten years and more by registering them under the proposed Act. Persons who do not come within the above category will not be registered and consequently will not have the right to practise medicine. It has thus become necessary to have a consolidated piece of legislation providing for the registration of qualified persons as well as of persons who have been practising medicine for not less than ten years.

A draft Bill has accordingly been prepared. I may be permitted to refer to one or two salient features of the Bill.

Separate councils for Modern Medicine, Indian or Indigenous Medicine and Homoeopathic Medicine will be established, the first two consisting of fifteen members each and the Homoeopathic council consisting of thirteen members. The Medical Council and the Board of Integrated Medicine now in existence will continue to function under the proposed Act as the Council of Modern Medicine and the Council of Indian or Indigenous Medicines. The first Council of Homoeopathic Medicine will, however, be constituted by the Government by nominating qualified practitioners of Homoeopathic medicine to that Council.

Provision has been made for the registration of persons who do not possess any of the recognized qualification in Modern Medicine, Indian or Indigenous Medicine or Homoeopathic Medicine, but who, within a period of one year from the date of the commencement of the Act, prove to the satisfaction of the Council of Indian or Indigenous Medicines that they have been practising medicine for not less than ten years and such practice has been their sole means of livelihood.

Separate registers will be maintained by each Council. The registers will contain the names of registered practitioners of Modern Medicine, Indian or Indigenous Medicine or Homoeopathic Medicine, who hold registerable qualifications included in Schedules I to III. Besides, a second register will also be maintained by the Council of Indian or Indigenous Medicines which will contain

the names of other practitioners who are registered by virtue of their long practice in Modern Medicine, Indian or Indigenous Medicine or Homoeopathic Medicine.

The Government have power to amend the First Schedule, the Second Schedule or the Third Schedule by including therein or omitting therefrom any qualification on the report of the appropriate Council or under certain circumstances.

On and after a date to be notified by the Government, a person who is not a practitioner registered or deemed to be registered under the proposed Act, cannot practise any medicine. Further, a person who is not a registered practitioner and who is not authorized by the Government in this behalf cannot sign or authenticate a birth or a death certificate or a medical fitness or physical fitness certificate which is required by law to be signed or authenticated by a duly qualified medical practitioner. Only with the special sanction of the Government, can a person not registered under the proposed Act hold any appointment, as a Physician or Surgeon, etc., or as a Medical Officer of Health. Provisions in respect of these matters are proposed in sub-clause (1) of clause 29. Sub-clause (2) of that clause prescribes the penalty for the contravention of the provisions of sub-clause (1). Conferring of degrees, diplomas, etc., by unauthorized persons or institutions, falsely adding any title or description to the name of any person and falsely pretending to be a registered practitioner are made offences under the proposed Act. Suitable penalties for contravening the above provisions have been proposed in clauses 30, 31 and 32 of the Bill.

I now move that this House concurs with the Legislative Assembly in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 18 members to consider the Madras Medical Practitioners Bill, 1965.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved—

" That this House concurs with the Assembly in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 18 Members (12 Members of the Legislative Assembly and 6 Members of the Legislative Council) to consider the Madras Medical Practitioners Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 22 of 1965) and that the following Members of this House be selected to serve on such a Joint Select Committee :—

1. The Hon. Sri. R. Venkataraman,
2. Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar,
3. Sri K. Anbazhagan,
4. Sri M. Rajah Iyer,
5. Dr. T. V. Sivanandam ; and
6. Sri K. Rajram.

11th August 1965]

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir I congratulate the Government on just bringing in this Bill and dispelling the idea that the various systems of medicine are quite different and some systems are inferior to what is called " Allopathic ". I am, of course, concerned with the wording in the Bill where Allopathy has been defined as Modern Medicine. Then, our own system has been defined as Indian, indigenous. Then there is the term Homoeopathy. Whatever it is, the idea of bringing one and the same Bill to just enable the constitution of Medical Councils of the various systems that are in vogue in our country is an excellent one, and I congratulate the Government. Now, Sir, the other systems are as scientific as what is called the modern system. In fact, there are remedies in Ayuryeda system which are not available in that so-called modern systems. If we dive deep into this affair we will find that a very large majority of our countrymen—why, even in Tamilnad—resort to other systems than Modern Medicine. Homoeopathy is growing on the one side. It was not placed on a statutory basis up to now. Under the provisions of this Bill, a practitioner has to get registered, whatever system he may be practising for a period of ten years. But I would like to seize this opportunity to request the Government to see how far the Ayurveda and Siddha systems can be improved and how far all our hospitals, which are in dearth of doctors, could be manned by these doctors. Ayurveda system is dealt with mostly in Sanskrit and the Siddha system is dealt with mostly in Tamil. Apart from developing these languages by Government encouraging these systems, a lot of precise information about human system, ailments that affect the human system and the remedies that are easily and cheaply available in this country, will be available to the Government by way of research in these systems. So, with the formation of these Councils and the registration of people who have been in the field for at least ten years, it is the Government's duty to see that the Ayurvedic and Siddha systems which are so cheap (because the herbs and metals are available very near our house) are encouraged as far as possible. If Government still think that these systems are not scientific, proper research should be made. They are just proclaimed as scientific. From our own experience we find that they are not unscientific systems. They are as scientific as science can prove and more scientific than what the Government think about other systems. Homoeopathy is so cheap and simple to administer, but it has to be administered by proper persons. The dosage is very small. Even in the Ayurvedic system, very many metals are administered in small doses. Each system has got its own merit. So I am very glad and I congratulate the Government on recognising at least this fact that there are other systems than modern medicine in vouge in our country which are responsible for the curative nature in most of the rural population. While congratulating the Government on placing Ayurveda, Siddha and Homoeopathy on a significant footing the formation of various committees for the various systems, I would like to stress that encouragement has to be given to these systems.

4-50 p.m.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : This Bill is going before the Joint Select Committee, where we will have further discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

" That this House concurs with the Assembly in setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 18 Members (12 Members of the Legislative Assembly and six Members of the Legislative Council) to consider the Madras Medical Practitioners Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 22 of 1965) and that the following Members of this House be selected to serve on such a Joint Select Committee :—

1 The Hon. Sri R. Venkataraman,

2 Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar,

3 Sri K. Anbazhagan,

4 Sri M. Rajah Iyer,

5 Dr. T. V. Sivanandam, and

6 Sri K. Rajaram."

The motion was put and carried.

4-56 p.m. MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow.

The House then adjourned.

VI—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

A. Statutory Rules and Orders

** 193. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 924, Education dated 1st June 1965, approving the list of all the parks and play-fields set out in the area within the jurisdiction of the Aruppukkottai Municipal Council in Ramanathapuram district. [Laid on the table of the House under section 14 (3) of the Madras Parks, Play-fields and Open Spaces (Preservation and Regulation) Act, 1959 (Madras Act 26 of 1959).]*

** 194. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 1127, Rural Development and Local Administration, dated 18th May 1965 making the surcharge and disallowance rules to the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958. [Laid on the table of the House under Section 179 (4) of the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958 (Madras Act XXXV of 1958).]*

** 195. *Notification issued with Government Memorandum No. 22191 T/65-2, Revenue, dated 16th March 1965, making amendment to Revenue Department Notification II-I No. 862*